United Nations S/2008/580

Security Council

Distr.: General
1 July 2009

Original: English

Letter dated 1 July 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report on the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the United States in June 2008 (see annex).

The document was prepared under my own responsibility, following consultations with other members of the Security Council. I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Rosemary A. **DiCarlo**
Ambassador

09-50079 (E) 170909

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 1 July 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the United States of America (June 2008)

Introduction

During the United States presidency of the Security Council in June 2008, the Council held 28 meetings, with one resumption, and 15 consultations of the whole. The Council also adopted eight resolutions and seven presidential statements. The United States Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, presided over the open thematic debate on women and peace and security, which was convened on 19 June.

Africa

Peace and security in Africa

The United States delegation called emergency consultations on 5 June to discuss reports of the Government of Zimbabwe's detention of American and British diplomats who were investigating political violence north of Harare. The representatives of the United States and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland provided a short briefing on the events that occurred near the town of Mazowe. Delegations expressed concern about the reports and the need to uphold the Vienna Convention. Some delegations noted that the incident was symptomatic of wider violence in the run-up to the elections. Some delegations asserted that the situation in Zimbabwe was not a threat to international peace and security.

On 9 June, the United Kingdom raised Zimbabwe under "Other matters", and requested a briefing from the Secretariat on the current situation. It was agreed that the President of the Security Council would schedule a briefing on the humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe under "Other matters" for 12 June.

On 12 June, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, John Holmes, briefed the Council under "Other matters".

On 23 June at a public meeting, Council members heard a briefing from the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, B. Lynn Pascoe, regarding recent developments in Zimbabwe. The Council then reconvened in a private meeting to hear from Ambassador Boniface Chidyausiku, Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe, and to continue the discussion. The Under-Secretary-General reported widespread violence against supporters of the Movement for Democratic Change opposition. The representative of Zimbabwe alleged that the international media were misrepresenting events, motivated by land disputes dating back 20 years and more. After long negotiations, the Council adopted a presidential statement on the situation in Zimbabwe (S/PRST/2008/23).

On 12 June, Council members discussed the ongoing military clashes between Djiboutian and Eritrean military forces in the Ras Doumeira and surrounding area. The United States delegation called for a Security Council reaction to the situation.

Members agreed to a presidential statement on the situation (S/PRST/2008/20), which was adopted under the item entitled "Peace and security in Africa".

On 24 June, the Council held an open debate on the subject in response to a request from Djibouti (S/2008/387); the Director of the Africa I Division of the Department of Political Affairs, João Honwana, gave a briefing; and the Prime Minister of Djibouti, Deleita Mohamed Deleita, the representative of Eritrea, the Observer of the African Union and the Observer of the League of Arab States made statements in addition to members.

Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan

On 12 June, all delegations took the floor following the report of the representative of Italy and Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005), Marcello Spatafora, who cited continuing violations of the arms embargo and human rights by the Government of the Sudan and rebel parties. Delegations condemned the violence against civilians. The representatives of Costa Rica, Belgium, the United States, Croatia and Burkina Faso expressed their concern that the Government of the Sudan was not implementing the targeted sanctions. The representatives of China, the Russian Federation and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya called for a ceasefire and revival of the political process. They also called for increased pressure on leaders of rebel groups, who the representative of South Africa alleged were not committed to negotiating a settlement in Darfur because their ambitions were to overthrow the Government of the Sudan. The representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya regretted the violence against civilians, and argued that the rebels were responsible for provoking Government attacks. The representative of Belgium responded that the Government of the Sudan must respect international law regardless of such provocations. The representative of the United Kingdom called for a ceasefire and said that the Council should respond to anyone undermining peace. The representatives of France, Belgium and Croatia supported new sanctions that would support stability in Darfur. The representative of Panama said that the Council's strategy in Darfur was not working and needed to be reconsidered.

Chad

On 16 June, the Council heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Dmitri Titov, on the Chadian rebel attacks which began on 11 June. Delegations expressed concern about the resurgence of violence in Chad, condemned all attempts at destabilization by force, and emphasized the importance of the regional dimension of the conflicts in Chad and the Sudan. Following consultations, the Council adopted a presidential statement on the situation in Chad (S/PRST/2008/22).

Great Lakes region

On 20 June, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, Joaquim Chissano, briefed the Council on the recent setbacks with the Juba peace process. Council members expressed concern that the leader of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), Joseph Kony, had failed to sign the final peace agreement, condemned LRA human rights abuses, and discussed possible responses by the Security Council. The

delegation of the United Kingdom announced its intention to put forward a presidential statement on the issue.

Eritrea and Ethiopia

On 23 June, members held consultations on the status of efforts to engage Eritrea and Ethiopia on the possibility of a follow-on United Nations presence to the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE). The representative of Belgium reported that the Government of Eritrea had currently no interest in such a presence and that the Government of Ethiopia, while open to discussion, had made no specific proposal. Security Council experts were to meet on 25 June to discuss a possible Council resolution.

Liberia

On 18 June, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1819 (2008), by which it renewed the mandate of the Panel of Experts on Liberia for six months. The Panel of Experts is mandated to report to the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia on the implementation and impact of the sanctions on Liberia, which include a comprehensive arms embargo and targeted measures on the former President, Charles Taylor, and his associates and other individuals found by the Committee to pose a threat to stability. By resolution 1819 (2008) the Council also encouraged the Government of Liberia to continue to strengthen its controls on the trade in rough diamonds.

Sudan

On 5 June, the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Luis Moreno Ocampo, briefed the Council on the implementation of resolution 1593 (2005), by which the situation in Darfur was referred to the Court. He described continued non-cooperation from the Government of the Sudan with the two pending indictments for war crimes in Darfur, against Ahmad Harun and Ali Kushayb. He also briefed the Council on his preparations for a second round of indictments, to be presented to the judges on 8 July.

On 16 June, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2008/21), in which it noted the efforts made by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to bring to justice the perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur, and urged the Government of the Sudan and all other parties to the conflict in Darfur to cooperate fully with the Court, as required by resolution 1593 (2005), in order to put an end to impunity for the crimes committed in Darfur, while stressing the principle of complementarity of the International Criminal Court.

On 24 June, the Council unanimously adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2008/24), in which it urged the National Congress Party and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement to resolve all outstanding issues related to implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and called on the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS), within its mandate, to deploy as appropriate peacekeeping personnel to the Abyei area to help reduce tensions and prevent further conflict. The Council heard briefings from the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Darfur, Jan Eliasson, and the Special Envoy of the African Union, Salim Ahmed Salim. Following the briefings, the Council members

discussed ways by which they could support the recommendations. Members expressed the ongoing need for a comprehensive settlement to the conflict.

Guinea-Bissau

On 25 June, the Council heard a briefing by the Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau, Shola Omoregie; the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna, Antonio Maria Costa; the Chairperson of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission and representative of Brazil, Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti; and the representative of Guinea-Bissau, concerning the situation in Guinea-Bissau in the run-up to its national elections in November. The Council expressed concern over the growing transnational drug trade, human trafficking, military influence in the political process, human rights violations, and the weak judicial system. At the closed meeting that followed, the Council approved a statement to the press, calling for reform in these areas of concern and expressing support for the various organizations involved in the reform process.

Somalia

On 2 June, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1816 (2008) to address the issue of piracy off the coast of Somalia. By the resolution the Council authorized States cooperating with the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia to be allowed, for a period of six months, to enter the territorial seas of Somalia and use "all necessary means" for the purpose of repressing acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea, in a manner consistent with relevant provisions of international law.

Asia and Middle East

Lebanon

On 2 June, the Council unanimously extended the mandate of the International Independent Investigation Commission until 31 December 2008, at the request of the Commissioner, Daniel Bellemare, and the Prime Minister of Lebanon, Fouad Siniora. In the resolution extending the mandate (1815 (2008)), the Council said it would be willing to terminate the mandate of the Commission before 31 December 2008 if the Commission reported that it had completed the implementation of its mandate before that date.

Afghanistan

On 11 June, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1817 (2008), which addresses the problem of trafficking of chemical precursors in the production of heroin in Afghanistan. This action, taken a day before the International Conference in Support of Afghanistan was to be held in Paris, underlined the unanimity of the international community to fight against the scourge of illicit drugs, especially with regard to the security and stability of Afghanistan. The Council pledged to work closely with the Government of Afghanistan on this important issue.

The Council adopted a statement to the press on 16 June welcoming the International Conference in Support of Afghanistan held in Paris on 12 June.

Members welcomed the generous and unprecedented financial pledges announced at the Conference, as well as the review of progress in the implementation of the Afghanistan Compact.

Non-proliferation (Islamic Republic of Iran)

On 13 June, the representative of Belgium and Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), Jan Grauls, presented the Committee's quarterly report on its work since March, noting that the Committee had sought information from one Government that had publicly stated that there had been a contravention of resolutions 1747 (2007) and 1803 (2008) on its territory. The representatives of France and the United Kingdom expressed concern that the Islamic Republic of Iran was not meeting its obligations under resolutions 1737 (2006), 1747 (2007) and 1803 (2008), and called on the Islamic Republic of Iran to do so. The United States representative echoed the French and British remarks and urged vigilance with respect to activities of financial institutions with banks domiciled in the Islamic Republic of Iran, in particular Bank Melli and Bank Saderat, and reaffirmed its commitment to a negotiated solution with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Iraq

On 13 June, the Council welcomed the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, Hoshyar Zebari, who gave an update on the political, security and economic situation in Iraq. The Controller, Warren Sach, gave a briefing on the Development Fund for Iraq and the International Advisory and Monitoring Board. The Special Adviser on the International Compact with Iraq, Ibrahim Gambari, briefed the Council on behalf of the Secretary-General and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, and the representative of the United States, Zalmay Khalilzad, briefed the Council on behalf of the multinational force in Iraq. At the conclusion of the meeting, the President of the Security Council, Ambassador Khalilzad, read a statement to the press on behalf of the Council.

United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

On 23 June, Council members heard a short briefing by the Director of the Asia and Middle East Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Wolfgang Weisbrod-Weber, on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF). After the briefing all members expressed support for UNDOF and for the goal of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. On 27 June, the Council adopted resolution 1821 (2008) extending the mandate of UNDOF along with the accompanying presidential statement (S/PRST/2008/25).

Iraq and Kuwait

On 25 June, Ambassador Gennady Tarasov, the Secretary-General's High-level Coordinator for missing Kuwaitis and third-country citizens and missing Kuwaiti property, briefed the Council. This was Ambassador Tarasov's first briefing to the Council after being appointed in March. He noted a lack of progress in regard to the missing Kuwaiti Government archives, but indicated progress in identifying the remains of missing persons. The Council issued a statement to the press following

the briefing, and welcomed the invitation of Ambassador Tarasov to Baghdad by the Government of Iraq.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 27 June, the Director of the Asia and the Pacific Division of the Department of Political Affairs, Lisa Buttenheim, briefed the Council on the situation in the Middle East. She reviewed the situation in Gaza, discussed efforts to advance the Annapolis process, took note of the continuation of indirect talks between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic with Turkish mediation, and highlighted the visit to the region, including Damascus, of the Special Coordinator, Robert Serry. She said that efforts to advance the political process through direct negotiations, including those mediated by the Quartet and countries in the region, should be promoted to find common ground on the core issues. Reiterating the United Nations condemnation of all deliberate or indiscriminate attacks on civilians and any disproportionate or excessive use of force, she added that measures to support the Palestinian Authority and the economy in the West Bank must be intensified by donors fulfilling pledges for budgetary support, that the road map obligations needed to be acted upon, particularly an Israeli settlement freeze, and that the Gaza calm should be respected by all parties concerned. On Lebanon, she noted that Lebanese leaders continued the process of forming a national unity government, as agreed upon in Doha; and stated that the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and the Lebanese Armed Forces continued coordinated operational activities throughout the area south of the Litani River.

Europe

Cyprus

On 9 June, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), Taye-Brook Zerihoun, in his first appearance before the Security Council, briefed the Council on the situation in Cyprus. He reported that the past six months had seen positive developments, particularly following the election in February of President Dmitris Christofias, which had created a new atmosphere on the island. He noted the meetings of President Christofias and the Turkish Cypriot leader, Mehmet Ali Talat, on 21 March and 23 May, saying that the prospects for a sustainable settlement had never been better but pointing out that the role of the Security Council is critical. The Special Representative indicated that the Secretary-General had already taken initial steps towards the appointment of a special adviser for Cyprus. On 13 June, the Council unanimously adopted, as a presidential text, resolution 1818 (2008), by which it renewed the UNFICYP mandate until 15 December.

Kosovo

An open meeting was called on 20 June, with the participation of the Secretary-General, the President of Serbia, Boris Tadić, and Fatmir Sejdiu of Kosovo, on recent developments in Kosovo and their future impact on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo. The Secretary-General announced the appointment of Lamberto Zannier, of Italy, to replace Joachim Rucker as Special Representative of the Secretary-General.

Thematic issues

Women and peace and security

On 19 June, the Council held an open debate on "Women and peace and security: sexual violence in situations of armed conflict", presided by the United States Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice. The event was well attended, with 60 speakers, including nine ministers and vice-ministers in addition to the Secretary of State.

During the debate, the Secretary-General announced he would soon appoint a "Messenger of Peace" to advocate for ending violence against women. Major General Patrick Cammaert, former Force Commander of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, reflecting on 39 years of military experience, stated that it is "more dangerous to be a woman than a soldier in an armed conflict".

Among the recurrent themes of the debate were that sexual violence may be considered a tactic of war, that it may impede the restoration of international peace and security, and that it is a security issue to which the Council must respond. To combat sexual violence, the following recommendations were made: strengthened Security Council mandates which include the protection of civilians; an increase in the number of female Special Representatives of the Secretary-General and Special Envoys; gender training for all peacekeeping and humanitarian personnel; greater participation of women in all peacebuilding and peacekeeping processes and decision-making, including at high levels; strict enforcement of the zero tolerance policy; and exclusion from amnesty provisions of crimes of sexual violence. Council members and other speakers stressed that more systematic and reliable information on sexual violence is needed and that the Secretary-General should report to the Council on the implementation of the resolution.

The Council debate ended with the unanimous adoption of resolution 1820 (2008), drafted by the United States and co-sponsored by 50 delegations, in which the Council linked sexual violence to international peace and security, demanded an immediate cessation of sexual violence by armed parties against civilians, expressed its readiness to take action on a country-specific basis, and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Council on sexual violence in situations of armed conflict.

Other issues

Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999)

On 30 June, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1822 (2008) renewing for 18 months the mandate of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team. The Monitoring Team reports to the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban on implementation by States of the arms embargo, travel ban and assets freeze imposed on individuals and entities determined by the Committee to be associated with Al-Qaida or the Taliban. In resolution 1822 (2008) the Council reaffirmed its commitment to combating the threat to international peace and security posed by Al-Qaida and the Taliban, and also introduced elements to improve the Committee's

transparency in the designation of individuals and entities for sanctions. Those elements include a strengthened call on States to notify parties of their designation or de-listing; a requirement that designating States provide public information on the reasons for listing with each request for sanctions; and direction to the Committee to make available on its website a summary of the reasons for designation. The Council also required the Committee to undertake a comprehensive review of all entries on the Committee's sanctions list and to conduct an annual review of that list.

International Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda

On 4 June, members of the Council stressed the importance of the international community continuing to work towards securing the arrests of the 17 individuals indicted by the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and who remain at large and must be brought to justice. Members called for both Tribunals to continue to implement their completion strategies with maximum efficiency. Some States called for greater cooperation on the part of Kenya, where Félicien Kabuga, a fugitive from the Rwanda Tribunal, is thought to be in hiding, with the Tribunal's efforts in seeking Kabuga's apprehension. There was also a strong call for the Western Balkans, Serbia in particular, to arrest and transfer all fugitives to the Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

Although some members of the Council focused on the necessity for international trials of all remaining fugitives, others stressed the importance of such trials only for Félicien Kabuga, Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic. Members stressed the need for the residual issues of both Tribunals to be resolved.

Counter-Terrorism Committee

On 30 June, the Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, Mike Smith, presented the report of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) during informal consultations of the Council. The report included a survey that was prepared in response to a request by the Council in its resolution 1805 (2008), by which it renewed the mandate of the Executive Directorate, as part of the assessment by the Executive Directorate of progress made by Member States in the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001). With the exception of South Africa, all Council members made brief statements supporting the work of the Executive Director and the Directorate in developing the survey.

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

On 2 June, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2008/19) strongly condemning the terrorist bombing in front of the Danish Embassy in Islamabad. The bombing also damaged a nearby building that housed offices of the United Nations Development Programme.